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PREFACE TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

THE subjects of the present work, for reasons which prevail in many publications of the kind, have been inserted without reference to any particular arrangement or system. Those plants received the earliest place, the observations respecting which were earliest matured, and the drawings of which were first completed. Although this plan has been objected to in some foreign criticisms, it is the one pursued in several of the most extensive and useful botanical works of the day, which are accompanied with plates; and in periodical publications, or those which appear in successive numbers, it has more than one decided advantage. It gives time for all the figures to be completed at leisure, from perfect specimens, in proper and convenient seasons; at the same time that it does not necessitate premature and imperfect descriptions of their subjects, which must take place were an arrangement adopt-